

FULL CIRCLE



SLI ENTERTAINMENT in association with KOIVULAN FILMI JA VIDEO
presents 'FULL CIRCLE' SOLVAN 'SLICK THE MISFIT' NAIM ROB MORGAN KELVIN HALE EDEN MARRYSHOW CELESTINE RAE
casting and produced by TIANDRA GAYLE executive produced by OLLI KOIVULA director of photography CHRIS CANNUCCIARI
produced and written by SOLVAN 'SLICK' NAIM directed by SOLVAN 'SLICK' NAIM & OLLI KOIVULA
sound MARKO VENTOLA editor OSKU TUOMINEN music by CHRIS HIERRO



KOIVULAN
FILMI JA VIDEO oy/td.

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WWW.FULLCIRCLETHEFEATURE.COM



About the Film

A young pizza delivery boy, Anthony, faces a life-changing crisis when his curiosity pulls him away from his delivery order into an adjacent apartment's open door. He cannot resist temptation when he stumbles across a large sum of money in the aftermath of what seems to be a drug deal gone bad. After taking the money, his life is thrown into turmoil as everyone he knows and cares about is put in jeopardy. His focus then turns to revenge when his close friend is killed. Anthony goes on a comically charged journey for vengeance as outlandish characters banter throughout in this musically infused, urban set comedy-action-drama. Anthony is set on avenging the death of his close friend even if it means going up against the neighborhood's most notorious thug.





Creative Team



Solvan 'Slick' Naim – Writer/Director/Producer

Full Circle is the feature film directorial debut for Solvan 'Slick' Naim, a 23-year old Algerian-American rapper and music video director from Bushwick in Brooklyn, New York. Solvan co-directed, wrote, produced, and makes his acting debut as Anthony (with an 'i' not a 'y') in this comedy-action-drama which takes place almost entirely in his very own neighborhood. Solvan graduated from the prestigious NYU's Clive Davis School of Recorded Music. With a strong background in music, Slick also created an original soundtrack for this musically infused film, along with music composer Chris Hierro.

Olli Koivula - Executive Producer/Director

Olli has studied filmmaking in Finland and the U.S. and has award winning films in both countries. His project '14085' a short film, screened at numerous festivals, won the Silver Palm Award and Best Short Film Director award at the Colorado Film Festival. It was an official selection of the Milano International Film Festival and the International Black Film Festival. Olli flew over from Finland to co-direct Full Circle just from reading the script.



Tiandra Gayle - Producer/Casting Director

Ms. Gayle is the Founder and President of NightinGayle Casting. She has worked in the entertainment industry for more than ten years. She has worn many hats, which include supervising producer, producer, executive producer and casting for film, theatre, television, as well as new media. Recent casting credits include the Sundance Film Festival 2013 selection 'Blue Caprice'. Other credits are 'Black Dog, Red Dog' directed by James Franco and 'The Challenger' starring Michael Clarke Duncan and most recently Investigation Discovery's TV Series 'Redrum'.

Chris Cannucciari - Director of Photography

An award winning, Brooklyn based DP, Chris has filmed over 300 episodes of the Peabody award winning series, 'Onion News Network' with over 150 million views. His other television credits include Comedy Central's 'Sportsdome', two seasons on IFC's ONN and 'Time Trumpet'. Chris' feature, 'New Brooklyn' was awarded Best Picture at the Canary Island Film Festival and the Digital International Film Festival of Chile.





Music and Art



Chris Hierro - Music Composer

Chris is a Producer, Songwriter, and Vocalist. He is lead singer for the Latin Grammy pre-nominated group *Taxi Amarillo*. Chris is a regular on the Latin scene having been a keyboardist and background singer for Alejandro Sanz, Obie Bermudez, Jerry Rivera, Notch and others. He has produced music for Eli Jas, Karina Pasian, Wason Brazoban and more. This is Chris' first movie score.

Manuel 'Lolo' Guzman -Storyboard Artist /Assoc. Prod

An Artist for over 20 years, Lolo helped create the vision for Full Circle through the storyboards and concept art. He also designed the Full Circle poster. He chose to go with a classically inspired illustration for the theme, similar to renowned tent pole classics like Star Wars and Indiana Jones, where the villain's glare is casting a shadow over the glowing hero. Lolo was involved with Full Circle from its conception and also served as Associate Producer.



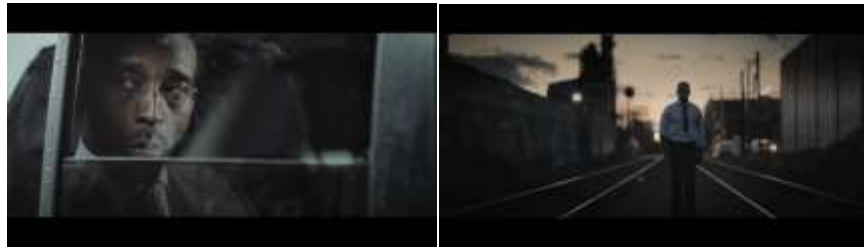
Antioni finds the money



Lomatic in his office with Goons Jamal & Pinky



Cast



Featuring Rob Morgan as Lomatic *Pariah, The Challenger, Busted on Brigham Lane, Inevitable Defeat of Mister and Pete, Shadowboxing, All Hale, and Monica Z as Miles Davis, 30 Rock, Blue Bloods, and Zero Hour*



Devale Ellis former wide receiver with the Detroit Lions



Edén Marrayshow *Bluebloods, Unforgettable, Nurse Jackie*



Mario Corry NBC's *Law & Order, Investigation Discovery's Commander-in-Chief*



Celestine Rae *Boardwalk Empire, American Gangster, Consequences*





Production Company



Solvan 'Slick' Naim also known as 'Slick the Misfit' began SLI Records shortly after graduating from the prestigious NYU's Clive Davis School of Recorded Music in the fall of 2010 with the sole purpose of making music, producing and directing music videos. As Slick's brand was quickly burgeoning and the production of his first feature film looming, the New York based 'SLI Entertainment' was forming.

In fact, the idea for *Full Circle* came from four beats that Slick received from a fellow producer. The beats made him feel four different emotions which led him to four different stories. Through music beats, the screenplay for *Full Circle* began. First written as a short, he decided to make it a full feature on the advice of several industry professionals. Once script and casting was complete and crew was hired, SLI Entertainment was born to encompass Slick's newest endeavor. Slick launched this independent film on a limited budget, and at the time of production was the youngest producer to register with the New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture and Television.

Now that SLI Entertainment's first feature is in the can, the company is now poised as a one stop shop production house that produces quality music, music videos, films, and commercials. Slick, along with an in-house crew of seasoned professionals can now take a concept from beginning to final product. Writing, Directing, and Producing a feature film is certainly a lot of work, but through it all many life experiences were conquered and lessons were learned.

Solvan 'Slick' Naim has produced commercials for Nike, G-Shock, music videos for himself, and other artists, as well as content for Mike Tyson, Talib Kweli and others. His major influences in the film and music world are Steven Spielberg, Oliver Stone, Quentin Tarantino, Roman Gavras, and rappers Jay Z, Nas, and 2Pac.

FULL CIRCLE

SLICK PRESENTS



Swizz Beatz w/ Slick the Misfit



Slick on set w/Mike Tyson



Slick w/50 Cent



Slick on set w/ Talib Kweli



Jay Roach w/ Slick the Misfit



Slick the Misfit w/ Spike Lee



Slick in action



What People are Saying ...

“***Full Circle*** is a hell of a fun ride and a very impressive debut for Naim.” **Chris McKittrick, MovieBuzzers.com**

“Regardless of whether *Full Circle* is a dark comedy, crime thriller, satire or romantic comedy, what is most compelling is the wildly different ways this film dares to take on contemporary issues in a manner all designed for audience escapism.”
Gerald Wright – The All Around Film Guy

“Anthoni and his friends who try to combat their neighborhood's gangster had us laughing in the theater with it's parody on our generations opinion of Facebook. Yet left us speechless at times with it's serious content” **Nadia Elsayed, Joonbug.com**

“*Full Circle* is an amazing movie, we were completely sold out at the premiere,” says **Roberto Rizzo**

“...the film does an exceptional job at blending humor, action and drama.” **Garden State Journal**



Press

Indiewire[®]

Preview 'Full Circle' (Pizza Delivery Boy Seeks Revenge On After Best Friend Is Killed)

News

BY TAMBAY A. OBENSON
AUGUST 20, 2012 11:56 AM
3 COMMENTS



The feature film directorial debut from rapper and music video director Slick (aka Solvan Naim) titled Full Circle.

It's synopsis reads:

A young pizza delivery boy, Anthoni, faces a life-changing crisis when his curiosity pulls him away from his delivery order into an adjacent apartment's open door. He cannot resist the temptation when he stumbles across a large sum of money in the aftermath of what seems to be a drug deal gone bad. After taking the money, his life is thrown into turmoil as everyone he knows and cares about is put in jeopardy. Anthoni's focus turns to revenge when a close friend is killed for his actions. Anthoni goes on a comically charged journey for vengeance as outlandish characters banter throughout in this dark action-comedy. Anthoni is focused on avenging the death of his close friend even if it means going up against the neighborhood's most notorious thug, Lomatic. Slick/Solvan stars as Anthoni, and he's joined by Rob Morgan as Lomatic, Kelvin Hale, Skye Lastra, Celestine Rae and others.

Slick wrote the screenplay and co-directed the film with Olli Koivula. The team successfully raised \$22,000 last year to kickstart production, and the film is currently in post-production, with an early 2013 release planned. The entire film was shot in New York City, and includes some special effects work, specifically, action scenes that will require heavy post-production work. Not much to look at yet by way of a trailer, except the above still photo; you can find a few more on the film's website [HERE](#).

Indiewire

Shadow and Act

On Cinema Of The African Diaspora

Predictions, PART 2: Black Films That Might Make Their Debuts At The 2013 Sundance Film Festival

BY **TAMBAY A. OBENSON**

NOVEMBER 27, 2012 5:51 PM

This is **PART 2** in a series that will continue daily, until likely Thursday, or I run out of titles. I can tell you that, as of right now, I have a list of **20 films** that could make the cut; I've already feature 5 of them; here are another five, in absolutely no specific order:

10- The feature film directorial debut from rapper and music video director **Slick** (aka **Solvan Naim**) titled *Full Circle*, which centers on young pizza delivery boy who faces a life-changing crisis when his curiosity pulls him away from his delivery order into an adjacent apartment's open door, where he gives into temptation after stumbling across a large sum of money in the aftermath of what appears to be a drug deal gone bad.

Slick/Solvan stars alongside **Rob Morgan** (*Pariah*, and the short film *The Tombs*), **Kelvin Hale** (*Blue Bloods*), **Celestine Rae** of the Off-Broadway hit show *All American Girls*, **Devale Ellis** formerly a wide receiver with the **Detroit Lions** who is making his film acting debut, and **Skye Lastra**, in her film debut as well.

Slick wrote the screenplay and co-directed the film with **Olli Koivula**.

I attended a private preview screening of the film a few weeks ago, and based on the attending audiences' reactions to it, I'd say it's definitely one of those crowd-pleasers. That, as well as its indie pedigree (it was financed via Kickstarter primarily), and the fact that it's being repped by **Ronna B. Wallace** (her resume goes back many years, and includes exec producing films like **Quentin Tarantino's** *Reservoir Dogs*, and **Abel Ferrara's** *Bad Lieutenant*, and others), I won't be surprised if *Full Circle* makes its debut at Sundance 2013.

Alright - that's today's first list of 5 films that might be announced as selections for the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, at the end of this week.



18th Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival Announces 2013 Lineup & Opening Film, 'Decoding Annie Parker'



The Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF) announced their 2013 lineup today which includes 26 world premiers and 8 U.S. premieres. The festival runs from April 4-11 and will kick off with the screening of "Decoding Annie Parker," a film by Steven Bernstein. The film stars Maggie Grace, Academy Award-winner Helen Hunt, Samantha Morton (as Annie Parker), Rashida Jones and Aaron Paul.

"Decoding Annie Parker" is based on a true story and spans 15 years in the lives of two women, Anne Parker and geneticist, Mary Claire King. Parker's life is devastated by a rare illness as those around her start to fall away when impacted by the complications of a ill-riddled life. Mary Claire King is a brilliant geneticist who believes there is a genetic link to the type of cancer that afflicts people like Anne, but few share her view. Their lives are intertwined in this story about bravery amidst trials.

Take a look at the full lineup below:

FEATURES

Full Circle, USA- Directed by Solvan Naim

Cast: Rob Morgan, Kevin Hale, Solvan Naim, Eden Maryshow, Celestine Rae

An action comedy about a Brooklyn pizza boy who seeks revenge on a local neurotic thug after his best friend is killed in a case of mistaken identity.



Solvan 'Slick the Misfit' Naim to debut film 'Full Circle' based on Bushwick pizzeria

Published: June 11, 2013 9:57 AM



The 24-year-old's story takes place at Tony's Pizzeria, and features seasoned actor Rob Morgan. (June 11, 2013)

BROOKLYN - An independent Brooklyn director is making waves in the film industry with a new movie based out of a traditional New York pizzeria.

Solvan "Slick the Misfit" Naim is debuting "Full Circle" at both the New York City International Film Festival and the Manhattan Film Festival this month.

The 24-year-old's story is that of a young pizza deliveryman in Bushwick who stumbles upon a large amount of cash from a drug deal gone bad. It's set at Tony's Pizzeria, and features seasoned actor Rob Morgan.

Read More: [Brooklyn Top Stories](#)

Naim raised most of the \$25,000 it cost to make the film through the website Kickstarter, which helps people raise money for creative projects.

Indiewood / Hollywoodn't

Independent Film in the Big Apple & Beyond...

IN NYC

June 8, 2013

[0 comments »](#)

Bushwick, Brooklyn Based 'FULL CIRCLE' Set to Make NYC Premiere @ NYC International Film Festival (June 14) + Manhattan Film Festival (June 27)



Solvan 'Slick The Misfit' Naim is one of New York's Hip-Hop music world's fastest rising stars. The cinema world is soon about to be awed by this raw new talent. After a successful world premiere at the *Palm Beach International Film Festival*, **SLI Entertainment's** Feature Film 'Full Circle' makes its New York City debut at the *New York City International Film Festival*. Followed two weeks later as a special presentation at the *Manhattan Film Festival*.

'Full Circle' is a wildly entertaining urban-action tale about a young pizza delivery boy, Anthoni (with an "i" not a "y") who faces a life-changing crisis when his curiosity pulls him away from his delivery order into an adjacent apartment's open door. When he stumbles across a large sum of money in the aftermath of what seems to be a drug deal gone bad...he simply can't resist the temptation. After taking the money, his life is thrown into turmoil as everyone he knows and cares about is put in jeopardy. His focus turns to revenge, when a close friend is mistakenly killed for his actions. Anthoni goes on a comically charged journey for vengeance as outlandish characters banter throughout in this musically in-fused, escapade. Anthoni is set on avenging the death of his close friend even if it means going up against the neighborhood's most notorious thug.

'Full Circle' is the feature film directorial debut for Solvan 'Slick' Naim, a 23-year-old Algerian-American rapper and music video director from Bushwick, Brooklyn. Solvan co-directed, wrote, produced, and makes his acting debut as Anthoni in this urban action tale, which takes place almost entirely in his very own neighborhood. Slick and music composer, **Chris Hierro**, crafted an exclusive soundtrack that captures the heartbeat of Brooklyn's trendy revitalization.

'Full Circle' features **Rob Morgan** of the critically acclaimed, award winning film "*Pariah*", and "*The Inevitable Defeat of Mister and Pete*" executive produced by **Alicia Keys**; **Kelvin Hale** and **Eden Marrayshow** of the TV Series "*Blue Bloods*" and **Devale Ellis**, former wide receiver with the *Detroit Lions* making his acting debut.



Indiewood / Hollywoodn't

Independent Film in the Big Apple & Beyond...

[Interview: Solvan 'Slick the Misfit' Naim \(Writer/Director/Producer/Actor – 'FULL CIRCLE'\)](#)

INTERVIEWS

June 13, 2013

[0 comments »](#)

Interview: Solvan 'Slick the Misfit' Naim (Writer/Director/Producer/Actor – 'FULL CIRCLE')



Solvan 'Slick The Misfit' Naim is one of New York's Hip-Hop music world's fastest rising stars. The cinema world is soon **You have a prominent background in music when did your interest in film first develop?**

I always had an interest in film but never followed through until after I graduated college. I was in a class called Acting for the Camera while at (NYU) Clive Davis Music Program. In the class, we made a video and we also got to edit it. In High School, everytime there was an opportunity, I would shoot video and edit. I seemed to have a natural talent for editing. Outside of this I never pursued film or visual art until after graduation.

How did the program at NYU prepare you for the music industry and, now, film?

The program did not help at all. It did serve a purpose for the soundtrack, though. There were a few artists I went to school with that had tracks with an old school feel. They were my age, but the tracks sounded like they were from the 70s. You will recognize them in the film immediately. One is in the love scene and the other plays over the introduction to the "Hippie" character.

You play a lot of roles in the film's production, from writing to acting. Which role did you find the most challenging?

It was by far the toughest thing I have done in my life, so far. In terms of taking on so many roles in the no-budget environment, I am not sure I would do that again. To be honest, I think the most tedious part about it was creating the production schedule. I was acting as production manager as well, so I would talk with the AD after a 14 hour shoot day and make the schedule for the next day. There was no sleep for 21 days. Not to mention, I would have to be on camera and be charismatic while exhausted. I feel like you need to direct OR act OR write.

Did you take on the roles out of necessity?

Complete necessity! I would love to have people take care of that. The crew we did have was crucial and did a great job. I was lucky because we also had a lot of volunteers that came in off the street to help. Thanks to them or else we would not have been able to do it.

I enjoyed the films hybridity of comedy, drama and musical. What were some of the filmmaking influences you drew from with ‘Full Circle’?

I have influences I follow like Quentin Tarantino, Martin Scorsese and Antoin Fuqua. In terms of ‘*Full Circle*’ I think there was a subconscious influence but what drove the shots and story in ‘*Full Circle*’ was the music. The music was done first, so the emotions of the script were built around there. Also, I drew from funny stories involving friends like the “Pee Sitting Down” sign was in a friends bathroom and stories like that. After that, there were characters I knew from the neighborhood and fleshed out back story for them.

What aspects of New York City were you keen on conveying in the film?

I wanted to showcase Bushwick, Brooklyn. 90% of the film was shot within a mile radius of where I live. Tony’s Pizzeria, for example, is 2 blocks away. I wanted to show characters of the neighborhood, including gentrification.

Shooting around New York, in a practical sense, how did you go about that? Was there a lot of guerilla style shooting involved?

Definitely! We did get permits too, though. We strived to do everything legit, but if we had to shot a scene and could not get the necessary permissions we would have to just do it. Nothing would stop me from getting the shot.



So all the crane shots were all permits?

Well, the opening shot was so late at night that we just shot it. It was on a jib so no one really bothered us.

What about the tracking helicopter shots? How did you go about those?

I brought my Director of Photography to a helicopter rental spot in New Jersey. We did not have large budget so, when we got there, the helicopter was like a toy. It was small with no doors. We both had to fit inside and put the camera on a stabilizer on the seat. We were so scared to change lenses in there. Not only because the lens could fall off the side, but if it did it would probably end up killing someone in the city below us.

How did you get your team together for ‘Full Circle’?

My Director of Photography **Chris Cannuciarri** shoots for ‘*The Onion*’ and Comedy Central so this is his first feature. My Co Director **Olli Koivula** flew from Finland and brought his sound guy. Sound was my biggest concern. Anyone can shoot something but you can tell in the first seconds of a film if they have professional sound.



‘Full Circle’ will be making its NYC premier on Friday, June 14 at the New York City International Film festival, but has already had a festival run with screenings at the Palm Beach International Film Festival. How has the reaction been to the film from the festival circuit so far? Have you given any thought the films distribution after its festival run?

Definitely a theatrical release. I know it will be a journey but the film should speak for itself. So far audiences have reacted positively, even in demographics I did not make the movie for. There were a lot of people over 50 in Palm Beach (and San Francisco, where the film also screened) who loved the film, for example. To make a film where almost any age, race or demographic can enjoy is very satisfying and should take it a long way towards a theatrical release.

To wrap up, is there any more specifics you would like to discuss regarding ‘Full Circle’?

Everyone needs to go to www.fullcirclethefeature.com where all relevant information is regarding tickets and links. This Friday, June 14 it screens at 8pm at SVA Theater on 23rd St. Sunday, June 16 we screen in Harlem at the Mist Theater. Thursday, June 27 we screen at the Quad Cinema as part of the Manhattan Film Festival at 7:30pm.

- Interview Conducted, Edited & Transcribed by Steve Rickinson



Next Up Feature: Slick The Misfit

RESPECT THE NEXT May 29, 2013 [0](#)



This is a terrific debut film by a very talented new artist – music/film/video he does it all, and well. Slovan ‘Slick’ Naim aka “Slick The Misfit” is one of the most intriguing performers I have come across in a while. Only 23-years old, he has already made a solid name for himself in the NY hip-hop world as a songwriter/performer, he also has a plethora of music videos and commercials he directed on his own site as well as MTV and other commercial outlets. And, he has a new film, Full Circle that he directed/wrote/produced/performed in playing in NY this month at 2 different film festivals. I think he is certainly one of the “leaders of the New Cool.”

We would love to book Slovan “Slick The Misfit” Naim for an interview to coincide with the release of his debut film.

We would also like to offer you the opportunity to have an exclusive break on the release of his music video, “Bushwick Boys” from his film, Full Circle. As well as the film’s trailer if you are interested. Below is the press release for his film, Full Circle as well as times for his film at the New York International Film Festival and The Manhattan Film Festival.

<http://slickthemisfit.com>

[Full Circle Trailer](#) from [SLI Entertainment](#) on [Vimeo](#).



Movie Review: 'Full Circle'

by Chris McKittrick

12, June 2013 [Movie Reviews](#) [No Comments](#)



I can't say I have my finger on the pulse of hip hop, so until seeing *Full Circle* I didn't know who Solman 'Slick The Misfit' Samra was despite the fact that he is based out of Bushwick, Brooklyn — only about five miles from where I live. However, after seeing the movie it's clear that even if this 23 year old Algerian-American rapper's music career doesn't work out he has a future making movies.

Naim plays Anthony, a pizza delivery boy who is obviously a goodhearted guy despite having a penchant for being at the center of mischief. While he spends most of his day goofing off and trying to impress girls, on one delivery he comes across what appears to be a drug deal gone wrong and discovers a bag overflowing with cash. Anthony takes the bag and thinks that it's his ticket out of struggling for every dollar for both him and his little sister — but the money happens to belong to neighborhood gangster Lomatic (Rob Morgan), who comes after Anthony and his friends with deadly consequences.

Anthony bounces between his jocular nature and a revenge-driven retaliator against Lomatic's operations.

Not only did *wunderkind* Naim star, write, produce, compose music for, and co-edit this movie, he also co-directed it with Olli Koivula. **Sharing directing duties was probably a good move for Naim because I've seen plenty of first time filmmakers bite off way more than they can chew by wearing too many hats. But make no mistake, this is still Naim's film all the way.** Your appreciation of it will depend on how you perceive his character, and though Naim might be a novice actor, he has no shortage of charisma. **At times Naim's writing** hovers close to the point where Anthony is too slick, too smooth (a beautiful girl, portrayed by Celestine Rae, virtually throws herself at him because they have a pleasant conversation), but overall Anthony (and Naim) are so likable that it's easy to overlook this.

There are other, more experienced actors who also add a lot of fun to the film. Morgan makes a fantastic villain, and though I've never seen him in a mainstream movie before I'm wondering why he doesn't have a



by Chris McKittrick

12, June 2013 [Movie Reviews](#) [No Comments](#)

higher profile. Some of his henchmen — like Jamal, played by former boxer Kevin Hale — also add a lot of humor to the movie. Of course, most of the cast is made up of new faces, including former NFL player Devale Ellis, **who plays Anthoni's somewhat nerdy friend Tommy.** They all play their roles very well and are clearly comfortable on camera. Another wonderful touch is the cinematography by Christopher Canucciari, which highlights Bushwick in a mostly brightly-lit, enjoyable way — unlike how most films tend to portray Brooklyn.

Though the film as a whole is a big success, *Full Circle* is at its best through its first two acts. Throughout the film Anthoni crosses paths with a number of humorous periphery characters who add a few laughs, but these clever bits start to lose their appeal once the resolution approaches. As a viewer I wanted less distractions on the way to the conclusion. One scene in particular features Anthoni consulting with neighborhood wise man Ralpho (Chris Hierro, who **co-wrote much of the film's music**) **which seems tacked on and wouldn't be missed if it were cut before its general release.** Frankly there are a little too many characters and some of these jokes seem to be a little inside for general audiences, so even when these scenes are funny they still just drag out the ultimate confrontation between Anthoni and Lomatic, and when we get there it actually resolves a lot quicker than you would expect. **In fact, I would've loved to see more of this time devoted to Morgan's Lomatic, who logically would probably be going after Anthoni in a much tougher way considering how much of his money Anthoni has stashed away.**

Full Circle portrays a dark story while not forgetting that there is a lot of fun in the street-level grit of New York. While I enjoyed the similarly themed (but Bronx-based) *Gimme the Loot* more, *Full Circle* is a hell of a fun ride and a very impressive debut for Naim. **There's a lot that can go wrong for first time directors** on a low-budget independent film, but in the case of *Full Circle* Naim overwhelmingly gets it right.

RATING: A enjoyable ride through Brooklyn that although loses a bit of steam never loses its sense of fun (7.5/10).

Full Circle will screen at the New York City International Film Festival on Friday, June 14, 2013 at 8:00pm at the SVA Theatre (333 W. 23rd St.) and Sunday, June 16, at 6:00pm at the MIST in Harlem (46 W. 116th St.). It will also screen at the Manhattan Film Festival on Thursday, June 27 at 7:45pm at the Quad Cinemas.



Chris McKittrick



All Eyes on the New York City International Film Festival

Cultures collide as NYCIFF showcases fresh and talented film making this week

Tuesday, June 18th, 2013 at 11:12 am | Nadia Elsayed

Film buffs have heard of the quintessential film festivals like [Sundance](#) and [Tribeca](#). However, our editors were in attendance at a rather special festivity this weekend called the [New York City International Film Festival](#) (NYCIFF). NYCIFF has the unique privilege of showcasing filmmakers and their work from all corners of the *world*. By embracing a broad cultural diaspora and integrating diversity into their mission statement, the organization is able to distinguish themselves from other big name festivals. Founder [Roberto Rizzo](#) had a few things to say about **NYCIFF**, “The beauty of our film festival is that it’s not just a place to see films; we’ve got special events going on for our audience and filmmakers every day. Some days we have up to 3 or 4 red carpet events and hold seminars for aspiring professionals who want to be in the business. We treat filmmakers and their films like kings with our small resources. We are putting in an incredible effort. We want to give our little push to new filmmakers in this very complex and competitive market of show business by giving them the chance to show their films in New York City.”

For the international filmmakers from destinations such as Spain, Israel, and Italy; showcasing their films in NYC not only gives their work credibility here in the US but also in their home countries. Rizzo’s wife, **Caroline Johnson** elaborates, “By giving recognition to filmmakers both here and abroad we pave the way for greater recognition and acceptance for them especially in their home country.” The organization stayed true to their words last Thursday night at their Opening Gala, as they introduced the premiere of South African film *Little One*. The film was South Africa’s official nomination selection at the **2013 Academy Awards**. Although it is an eye opener about the harsh realities of rape in South Africa, the movie’s overall message is one about love and family. Let’s take a closer look at some of the official selections playing at the NYCIFF now!



Robert Rizzo with Mr. Lo Bianco

Full Circle: Any movie that has a young 24 year old director involved and was shot for less than \$30,000 deserves a nod from us.

This gritty tale of a pizza boy named **Anthony** and his friends who try to combat their neighborhood's gangster had us laughing in the theater with it's parody on our generations opinion of **Facebook**. Yet left us speechless at times with it's serious content. “*Full Circle* is an amazing movie, we were completely sold out at the premiere,” says **Roberto Rizzo**. The director sharply comments on the cultural aesthetics of his Brooklyn neighborhood, Bushwick, through his first person narrative. *Full Circle* helps us gain an intimate look inside the neighborhood and its complex characters. The depiction mimics a similar film style to some of **Spike Lee**’s earlier works like *Do the Right Thing* and *Clockers*.



THE DAILY ENTHUSIAST

What's your Enthusiasm?

[A&E](#), [Entertainment](#), [FP-Feature](#), [Movies](#) July 21, 2013

From Brooklyn, With Love



Young director, Solvan “Slick the Misfit” Naim’s feature film *Full Circle*, climbs the ranks to become America’s favorite.

Music industry moguls such as Russell Simmons and Swizz Beats recognize his craft. We might know him well from co-directing Talib Kweli’s recent music video [Hamster Wheel](#) that premiered on MTV2 and helping to produce a series of Nike commercials like this [one](#) featuring Kevin Durant. Now, talented Algerian-American rapper and music video director **Solvan “Slick the Misfit” Naim** is taking the knowledge he’s learned and adding a feature film to his belt.

[Full Circle](#) reaches an indie level of brilliance. Winner of the Best Feature Award at the New York City International Film Festival, the flick stands as the public’s choice for a noteworthy piece of cinema worth watching over again. “We were completely sold out at the premiere,” says [NYCIFI](#) CEO Robert Rizzo. A dark action-comedy set against an urban backdrop in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Naim both composes his own original music in certain scenes and stars in the film himself as a pizza boy named Anthoni. When Anthoni (spelled with an ‘I’ not a ‘Y’) gets directions to deliver a pizza, his curiosity pulls him away from his order and into the adjacent open door apartment. He cannot resist the temptation to take the bag of money left on the floor in what appears to be a drug deal gone wrong. It’s then that things start to get interesting. Anthoni’s friends are completely put in jeopardy as a result of his choices, even leaving one of his friends dead. The film follows Anthoni (Naim) on his comedic yet pressing journey for revenge as him and his friends try to combat the neighborhood’s local gangster, Lomatic. Naim sheds light on his character and vision for the film, “I like Anthoni’s charisma but hate his stupidity for not thinking his actions through. It was always about the music for me. I was sent 4 beats that made me feel 4 different emotions so I started to write the film based on what I envisioned the music telling me.” *Full Circle* is a collaboration involving many crucial people. The feature was co-directed by Naim and award-winning Finnish talent [Olli Koivula](#). Koivula previously directed a short film, cleverly titled [14085](#) (the number of people killed by handguns each year in the U.S). Due to both men’s sharp directorial efforts, there’s never a dull moment in the film. Tiandra Gayle ([NightinGayle](#)) is the mastermind behind producing and casting *Full Circle*.

Underneath the dramatically charged façade of the film are a few things that really make it special; community, interesting character development and budget. *Full Circle* is one of the few films that attempts to comment on the modern cultural aesthetics of bushwick as a neighborhood. The film is comparable to Spike Lee's depictions of Brooklyn in some of his earlier works. [Bushwick](#) was once typically geared towards lower income/middle class families, but in recent years, some parts have been transforming with loft spaces and artists. It is a diverse area in every sense of the word. Many scenes were filmed in [Tony's Pizzeria](#) on well-known Knickerbocker Avenue. **Tony's has been a reliable, local restaurant for years.** [Anthoni](#) describes the neighborhood vividly in the opening scenes when stating, "If there was a street between good and evil- it'd be right here between a bodega and a barbershop." [Naim](#) is giving back to his community with this film. "I'm from New York City but lived in bushwick for the last 5 years and it's where I honed all my talent and became a man. I wanted to showcase the neighborhood and some of the crazy characters in it."



Lomatic in Full Circle fullcirclethefeature.com

The cast and crew are a close-knit family both on and off screen. The characters are elaborately developed, each of them containing a rare persona and they're own secrets within the film. Whether it's [Layla](#), the love interest of both Anthoni and Lomatic who must choose between two men or [Kyle](#), Anthoni's cuckold best friend who used to have a hard gangster charm until his Californian girlfriend changed all that. The most complex character we came across was Lomatic. This is not the first project Anthoni (Naim) and Lomatic (Morgan) have worked on together. [Rob Morgan](#) (Lomatic) does a superb job of portraying a hardcore gangster with a hilarious disposition. Audiences can't help but love him and almost forget he is the bad guy. "For Lomatic I wanted to create a special villain that we haven't seen before, which was a real challenge considering the thousands of villains' movies have made. I wanted him to be like- able but hated and extremely dangerous and unpredictable," says Naim.

The film was made for less than thirty grand-an undeniable fact to rival the million dollar box office motion pictures out right now. Naim had a few words to motivate young directors, "Upcoming filmmakers just do what you have to do with what you have. Don't wait for large amounts of money or help. Just do it! You'll be happy you did. After that, then of course you've got to hustle the film and get the world to see it which is a whole other beast but festivals are a large help."

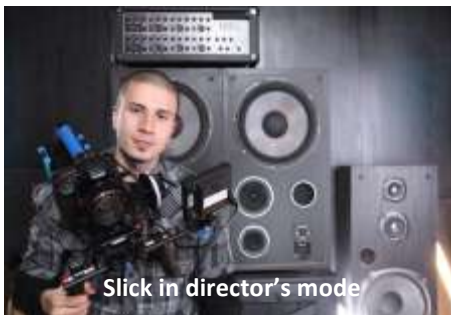
Full Circle speaks to our generation's audience. The film will leave you laughing for days with its parody of Facebook. Naim's movie is proof that the youths work is always meaningful. Our editors just had one last thing left to wonder...has Spike Lee seen this yet?

View trailer [here](#) . *Full Circle* has premiered at the [ABFF](#) Festival in Miami, the [New York City International Film Festival](#) and the [Palm Beach International Film Festival](#). It will also make it's debut at the [Minneapolis Underground Film Festival](#).

-Interview by Nadia Elsayed



Full Circle movie still



Slick in director's mode



Official poster by Manuel "Lolo" Guzman



[Nadia Elsayed](#)



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